THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Food Corporation of India has not yet exported wheat and rice from the public stocks directly. FCI has been undertaking open sale of wheat and rice under the Open Market Sales Scheme for domestic consumption with a view to reduce the huge stocks and making available storage space for ongoing/ensuing procurement, at the following price ranges from time to tome:—

(Rate/Rs. per tonne)

Period	Wheat
April to July, 1995	4150-4550
August/September, 1995	4150-4650
October, 1995	4150-4700
November/December, 1995	4150-4740
January to March, 1996	4150-4773*

*Rs. 4773/- is the rate applicable for sale within 50 Kms. of port towns.

(Rate/Rs. tonne)

Period	Fine Rice	Super-fine Rice
January to October, 1995	6300-6700	6600-7000
17th Nov., to 22nd December, 1995	6450-6750	6750-7050
23rd December onwards**	6630-7050	6950-7350

**The price of rice for port towns and areas within 50 Kms. thereof, will be Rs. 50/- less than the export price.

(b) No, Sir. In spite of movement constraints, Food Corporation of India has been able to move sufficient quantity of wheat to other parts of the country including hilly areas to meet the requirement under Public Distribution System.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Twelve meetings of the High Level Committee (HLC) have been held so far. In its meeting held on 19th and 23rd December, 1995, the HLC recommended fixing of prices in terms of dollar payable in Indian rupees and recommended US $ 141.58 PMT for wheat and US $ 246.36 PMT for fine rice and also recommended that the parity between port towns and other places, as also between fine and superfine rice, as existing should be maintained.

गन्ना उत्पादकों को देय धनराशि

*150. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या **खाद्य** मंत्री 7 अगस्त, 1995 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 873 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि गन्ना किसानों की 450 करोड़ रुपये की रिकार्ड धनराशि जनवरी माह तक चीनी मिलों पर बकाया होने का अनुमान है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है?

खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत सिंह): (क) और (ख) चीनी इकाइयों की नकदी स्थिति पर निर्भर होने, गणना (विचार) की जा रही अवधि के दौरान पिराई की गई गन्ने की मात्रा तथा अन्य बातों के कारण गन्ना मूल्य के बकाया की स्थिति समय-समय पर तथा विभिन्न पिराई मौसम में बदलता रहता है। 1995-96 चीनी मौसम के लिए 31.1.1996 तक, जो कि पिराई का लगभग शीर्ष-अवधि है, देय बकाया गन्ना मूल्य 678.32 करोड़ था। यह कुल देय गन्ना मूल्य का लगभग 25% दर्शाता था।

Expert Group on Export of Agricultural Commodities and Processed Food

*151. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the work done up till now by the Expert Group set up by the Planning Commission under the chairmanship of Member (Agriculture) to study the need for strengthening of infrastructure for export of Agricultural Commodities and processed food;

(b) when the report was submitted; and

(c) the action taken thereon?